

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4607

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie,

I write to ask for the full and fair consideration of Spotsylvania County during your selection deliberations for a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic space near Fredericksburg, VA.

In 2017, Congress authorized leases for 28 Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) facilities around the country, two of which are in the Commonwealth of Virginia. On October 25, 2019, the VA announced it will be accepting lease proposals for an outpatient clinic space in the area between Stafford and Spotsylvania County.

These Outpatient Clinics will enable the VA to expand primary care, mental health, and specialty care services to veterans throughout the Commonwealth. These clinics are essential for the well-being and health of our veterans in Central Virginia, who often face long wait times and overcrowding at existing VA medical facilities or who currently travel significant distances to receive care.

With 14,693 veterans living in the County, Spotsylvania is home to one of the largest populations of veterans in the region. Moreover, the County possesses many characteristics that would benefit an outpatient clinic—including developed suburbs to house medical providers, established restaurants, businesses, and facilities capable of meeting the needs of a swelling customer base, and nearby civilian hospitals. Being the meeting point for several highways, Spotsylvania is also easily accessible for veterans throughout Virginia.

On behalf of the veterans of Central Virginia and their families, I ask that the VA fully consider locations in Spotsylvania County, VA as a potential site for an outpatient clinic.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your Department's work to improve patient access and care for Virginia's veterans.

Sincerely,



Abigail D. Spanberger
MEMBER OF CONGRESS